

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 30, 2004 has been fully considered by the Applicant. Claims 1 and 9 are currently amended; claims 2-8 and 10 have been previously amended; and claims 11-13 are original.

Claims 1-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,754,651 to Blatter et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,493 to Magee et al. Applicant's claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to further define that the packet identifiers of each stream are demultiplexed and re-mapped in a local database. This feature is not found in either the '651 patent to Blatter et al or the '493 patent to Magee et al. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to convey that in Applicant's invention only the packet identifiers are modified under local control and with reference to a local database. Applicant's invention does not additionally create a condensed packet switching interface, and the new stream of Applicant's invention is not retimestamped/timebased as in the '651 patent to Blatter et al, which steps are required in the Blatter et al '651 patent in order for the Blatter et al invention to work. However, these additional Blatter et al '651 steps require significant manipulation and re-interpretation of the specific payloads in the streams, thereby adding significant cost to the processing of the data stream. Applicant's invention does not require the costly processing of manipulation and re-interpretation of the data streams as required in the Blatter et al patent. Some of the advantages of Applicant's invention are the significant saving in computation and allowing of the re-use of existing silicon. Applicant sincerely believes that its invention is patentable over both the Blatter et al '651 patent and the Magee et al '493 patent.

In addition, the present invention avoids identifier clashes between packets of data from different transport streams. Unlike professional remultiplexing equipment, it is not necessary to adjust the contents of the data packets in order to avoid clashing in the present invention, just the PIDs. Since the identifier remapping is performed under the control of the receiver, all necessary information is available to the receiver without the entire data stream having to be repurposed. The present invention therefore represents a cost effective and simple solution to problems in the prior art.

The prior art identified by Examiner Hoyer relates to manipulation of the data packets themselves including PIDs rather than just the PIDs to allow a single data stream to be formed from a plurality of data streams. As such, the identified prior art suffers from the same problems associated with prior art multiplexing equipment.

More specifically, US Patent No. 2,754,651 teaches to a system and method for reducing the processing and storage overhead imposed by Program Specific Information (PSI) used in program content recovery. The invention condenses PSI and adaptively inserts the condensed PSI in a packetized data stream to provide reduced processing and storage overhead. Thus, an input packetized data stream representing a plurality of programs involves selecting a desired program from the plurality of programs. Program content packets comprising the selected program are identified and condensed program specific information (CPSI) and the identified packets are formed into a data stream. Thus, the packetized data stream including the PIDs is demodulated and repurposed in US 5,754,651 and not just the PIDs as in the present invention. US Patent No. 5,754,651 therefore provides no teaching to the solution of the present invention.

The United States Patent No. 5,835,493 to Magee et al teaches to a remultiplexer for communicating programs originating from plural input transport streams into a single transport

stream. The remultiplexer does this by selecting transport packets and assembling the packets into a single output stream. Thus, US Patent No. 5,835,493 suffers from the same problems as US 5,754,651 to Blatter et al and provides no further teaching to the solution of the present disclosure. Amended claim 1 is therefore both novel and inventive over the identified prior art documents.

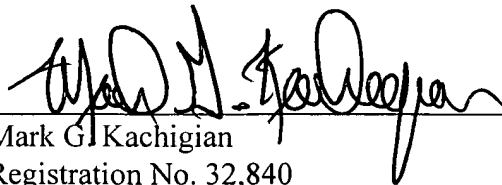
Claim 9 has been amended to more clearly define that the steps of demultiplexing and remapping are performed only on the packet identifiers within said data streams. This feature is clearly not taught in the prior art and, therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant's believe that the claims as amended herein overcome the prior art and therefore respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any further issues remain, a telephone conference with the Examiner is respectfully requested.

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark G. Kachigian', is written over a horizontal line.

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